Massachusetts Commandery

of the

Naval Order of the United States

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1899.

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Gift
Mrs. Julian James
1912

Officers of the General Commandery.

1899-1901.

General Commander,

Rear Admiral John G. Walker, U.S.N. (retired), (Pennsylvania.)

Vice General Commanders,

Colonel John B. Porter, (Pennsylvania).

Rear Admiral George E. Belknap, U.S.N., (retired), (Mass.)

Admiral George Dewey, U.S.N., (New York.)

General Recorder,

Lieut. Commander Leonard Chenery, U.S.N. (retired), New York).

Assistant General Recorder,

Rodney Macdonough, (Massachusetts.)

General Treasurer,

Lieutenant Jarvis B. Edson, (New York.)

General Registrar,

James V. P. Turner, (Pennsylvania.)

General Historian,

Major Richard S. Collum, U.S.M.C. (retired), (Pennsylvania.)

General Chaplain,

Rev. George W. Smith, D. D., LL. D., (New York.)

General Council,

Rear Admiral Winfield S. Schley, U.S.N., (New York.)

Rear Admiral Norman H. Farquhar, U.S.N., (Pennsylvania.)

Rear Admiral George W. Melville, U.S.N., (District of Columbia.)

Captain Henry H. Bellas, U.S.A., (retired), (Pennsylvania.)

Medical Director George W. Woods, U.S.N., (New York.)

Captain Henry C. Taylor, U.S.N., (Massachusetts.)

Rear Admiral John W. Philip, U.S.N., (Massachusetts.)

Lieutenant Commander Edward M. Stedman, U.S.N., (retired), (Illinois.)

Paymaster John R. Carmody, U.S.N., (retired), (District of Columbia.)

Officers of Massachusetts Commandery.

1899.

Commander,

Rear Admiral George Eugene Belknap, U.S.N., (retired.)

Vice Commander,

Commander Harrison Gray Otis Colby, U.S.N.

Recorder,

Amos Binney.

Treasurer,

Frederick Bacon Philbrook.

Registrar,

Franklin Thomason Beatty, M. D.

Historian,

William Lithgow Willey, S. D.

Chaplain,

Rev. Charles Langdon Tappan.

Councillors,

Thomas Amory De Blois, M. D.
Charles William Galloupe, M. D.
Frederic Stanhope Hill.
Lowell Dalton Hoyt.
William Francis Joy.
Rodney Macdonough.
Chief Engineer David Betton Macomb, U.S.N., (retired.)
Lieutenant Commander William Melville Paul, M.V.M.
Lieutenant (Junior Grade) George Shepley Selfridge, M.V.M.

Committee on Membership,

Chief Engineer David Betton Macomb, U.S.N. *Chairman.*
Franklin Thomason Beatty, M. D.
Amos Binney, Recorder, *ex-officio*.

Historical.

The Naval Order of the United States developed from an informal gathering, on July 4, 1890, of a few gentlemen interested in naval history. A permanent organization was effected Nov. 10, 1890, under the title Naval Commandery of the United States. The membership was restricted to officers and enlisted men of the Navy, Marine and Revenue Marine services and their descendants, and was limited in number. This organization is believed to be the first hereditary society in which eligibility was dependent on purely naval service.

At the meeting of the Commandery, held Nov. 10, 1892, action was taken to broaden the field of the organization by formation of a central body with branches in the different states. In connection with another society (since dissolved), a provisional organization was effected on June 19, 1893, and at a special Congress, held Aug. 15, 1893, the General Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States was fully constituted, the parent body becoming the Massachusetts Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States. A change was also made in the eligibility clause of the Constitution, membership being restricted to commissioned officers and their descendents.

Commanderies have since been instituted in Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois and the District of Columbia.

The Massachusetts Commandery was incorporated Dec. 14, 1894.

From the Constitution.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, Many of the principal battles and famous victories of the several wars in which the United States has participated were fought and achieved by the Naval forces,

Whereas, It is well and fitting that the illustrious deeds of the great Naval commanders, their companion officers in arms, and their subordinates in the wars of the United States should be forever honored and respected; —

Therefore, Entertaining the most exalted admiration for the undying achievements of the Navy, we, the survivors and descendants of participants of those memorable conflicts, have joined ourselves together and have instituted the "NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES," that we may transmit to our latest posterity their glorious names and memories; and to encourage research and publication of data pertaining to Naval art and science, and to establish libraries in which to preserve all documents, rolls, books, portraits and relics relating to the Navy and its heroes at all times.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

The Companions of the Order shall be of two classes.

FIRST CLASS.

Commissioned officers, midshipmen and naval cadets, or corps or staff officers with relative rank as such, or appointed volunteer officers in line of promotion, who were in actual service in the Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Service under the authority of any of the thirteen original Colonies or States, or of the Continental Congress during the War of the Revolution, or of the United States during the War with France, the War with Tripoli,

the War of 1812, the War with Mexico, the Civil War, the War with Spain, or in face of the enemy in any engagement in which the Navy of the United States has participated, or may participate, and who resigned, were discharged with honor, or who are still in the service, or those who served as aforesaid but in a grade below that of a commissioned officer, midshipman, naval cadet, or corps or staff officer with relative rank as such or appointed volunteer officer in line of promotion, and who subsequently became a commissioned officer, regular or volunteer, in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Service: Provided however, that this clause shall not be so construed as to include officers who at any time have borne arms against the Government of the United States.

All male descendants of those who are eligible as above specified, or in default thereof, then one such collateral representative as may be deemed worthy.

SECOND CLASS.

Enlisted men who have received the United States Naval Medal of Honor for bravery in face of the enemy, may be enrolled exempt from fees and dues by the Commanderies of the States in which they reside; such membership to be for life only.

ARTICLE IX.

ADMISSION OF COMPANIONS.

Any person above the age of twenty-one years, of good moral character and reputation, desirous of becoming a Companion of the Order, shall make application in writing, setting forth claims of eligibility, and accompanied by proofs of the same, in which it must be satisfactorily shown that the service of the participant was other than shore duty, regularly performed in the United States Navy or on an armed vessel in the service of the United States or sailing under letters of marque and reprisal in time of war.

Said application, bearing the endorsement of two Companions,

and accompanied by an admission fee of not less than five (5) dollars, and the dues for the current year, shall be submitted to the Committee on Membership, who shall present their report to the Council of the Commandery. Upon a favorable ballot by that body the applicant shall thereupon become a Companion of the Order.

ARTICLE XIII.

INSIGNIA.

The Insignia of the Order shall consist of a gold Cross pattee, one and one quarter inches in diameter, the arms of blue enamel edged with gold.

CROSS.

OBVERSE: In the center on a circle of red enamel five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, an eagle, wings extended, resting on an anchor surrounded by thirteen stars of five points all of gold, representing in substance the insignia of the Navy of the United States; the whole encircled by a band of white enamel one-eighth of an inch wide, displaying in letters of gold the motto of the Order, "Fidelitas et Patria."

REVERSE: The Cross as above described. In the centre on a circle of red enamel five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter shall appear in gold the insignia of the United States Marine Corps, the whole encircled by a band of white enamel one-eighth of an inch wide bearing in letters of gold the legend, "Naval Order of the United States."

The Cross shall be worn on the left breast suspended by a ribbon of heavy ribbed white silk one and one-half inches wide, with a red centre three-fourths of an inch wide, the whole an inch and a half in displayed length.

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When the Insignia is not worn, a rosette one-half of an inch in diameter of the prescribed ribbon and pattern [red rim, white face, red loop in centre] may be worn by Companions in the upper button hole of the left lapel of the coat.

General Information.

The Constituted Bodies of the Order are the General Commandery and the State Commanderies. The legislative body for the whole Order is the Congress, which, composed of the General Officers and six Delegates from each Commandery, meets in regular session every third year, on Oct. 5th, the anniversary of the adoption by Congress, in 1775, of the resolutions formally authorizing the fitting-out of the first ships of the Navy. It may meet in special session upon the vote of the General Council.

The Council in either the General or a State Commandery has the functions of a board of directors.

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Commandery is held on Nov. 10th, the anniversary of the establishment of the Marine Corps in 1775. Special meetings are held from time to time.

The Admission Fee is Five Dollars; the Annual Dues are Three Dollars and are payable in January of each year.

Application for Membership is made upon a Preliminary Application blank. This must be filled in, signed by two Companions, and sent to the Recorder together with the Admission Fee, $5.00, and Dues for the current year, $3.00, the latter being however, remitted between Nov. 1st, and Jan. 1st. Full Application blanks will then be issued, which must be filled in and returned to the Recorder before action can be taken by the Council. The Full Application is in duplicate, one copy being for the General Commandery, the other for this Commandery. Candidates are elected by the Council after the investigation by the Membership Committee. In case of rejection all fees are returned.

Insignia. By the provisions of the Act of Congress of Sept. 25, 1890, officers and enlisted men of the different branches of the services are premitted to wear the Insignia and colors on all occasions of ceremony and when in full uniform. The cost of the Insignia is $15.00; the Rosette costs 25 cents.

Any further information will be cheerfully furnished on application to the Recorder, Amos Binney, 53 State Street, Room 416, Boston, Mass.